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| APPLICATION NO.                      | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR       | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/825,153                           | 04/16/2004  | Johannes Cornelis Driessen | 081468-0309282      | 7863             |
| 909                                  | 7590        | 08/23/2005                 | EXAMINER            |                  |
| PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP |             |                            | GURZO, PAUL M       |                  |
| P.O. BOX 10500                       |             |                            | ART UNIT            |                  |
| MCLEAN, VA 22102                     |             |                            | PAPER NUMBER        |                  |
|                                      |             |                            | 2881                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

|                              |                 |                 |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No. | Applicant(s)    |  |
|                              | 10/825,153      | DRIESSEN ET AL. |  |
|                              | Examiner        | Art Unit        |  |
|                              | Paul Gurzo      | 2881            |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 15-17 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-14 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Terminal Disclaimer*

The terminal disclaimer filed on 8/4/05 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,740,891 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 15-17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morita et al. (5,914,493).

Regarding claims 1, 17, and 19, 493 teaches a load lock assembly that operates in the following manner: the first gate valve (2) is closed and the second gate valve (5) is opened to bring the load-lock chamber (3) to atmospheric pressure. One of several wafers (6), located at position D in the atmospheric chamber (8), is transported to position C and then to position B in the load-lock chamber (3). The second gate valve (5) is then closed and the load-lock chamber (3) is rapidly evacuated until the pressure inside of the load-lock chamber (3) matches the vacuum condition in the exposure-processing chamber (1). The first gate valve (2) is then opened and the wafer (6) is transported from position B to position A in the exposure-processing chamber (1). The first gate valve (2) is closed, and exposure processing begins in the exposure-processing chamber (1) (col. 1,

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lines 38-51 and Fig. 1). Therefore, there exists two vacuums, namely the vacuum present in chamber (3) and the one in chamber (1). The movement of the wafer (6) to the wafer stage (9) teaches the claimed communication and movement of a utility to a component and Fig. 1 clearly shows that the component (9) is movable in the vacuum chamber. The component (wafer stage (9)) is located in the first vacuum space and the conduit is the region within the second vacuum chamber (3). The casing of the chamber (3) will act as the conduit shield because it separates the first and second vacuum chambers and is constructed and arranged to allow for movement of the component. Further, the use of the gate valves (2 and 5) teach on the claimed vacuum generator that is coupled to the space and is constructed and arranged to provide a vacuum in the space comprising the at least one conduit (col. 4, lines 28-64).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Fig. 1 clearly depicts the claimed conduit shield (3) and this shield comprises the conduct and has at least two joints and the shape of the shield/conduct will guide and shield.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, it is inherent that the vacuum chambers can be pumped to the desired pressures by the respective vacuum generators, and Fig. 1 clearly shows the claimed component being an object table (9).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 4-14 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding these claims, the prior art does not teach or render obvious the claimed motor vacuum seals in each of the joints, the at least one hollow elongate arm portion, or

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a lithographic projection apparatus comprising a radiation system, a first and second object table, and the assembly communicating utilities to one of the object tables.

*Conclusion*

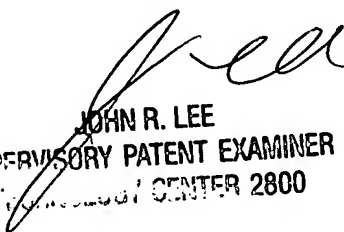
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Gurzo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2472.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Fri. 7:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Lee can be reached at (571) 272-2477. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PMG

  
JOHN R. LEE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
ELECTRONIC BUSINESS CENTER 2800